

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A color printing method of an inkjet printer printing a color image on a recording paper using color inks contained in a color cartridge, the color printing method comprising:

detecting a residual amount of each of the color inks;

comparing the residual amount of each of the color inks with a predetermined standard residual amount and determining whether the residual amount of at least one color ink is less than the predetermined standard residual amount;

if the residual amount of the at least one color ink is less than the predetermined standard residual amount, selecting one of a normal printing mode in which the color image is printed using all of the color inks and an ink saving printing mode in which the color image is printed using at least one of the color inks having residual amount greater than the predetermined standard residual amount; and

printing the color image according to the selected printing mode.

2. The color printing method of claim 1, wherein the selection of the printing mode comprises:

displaying a printing mode selection window comprising the normal printing mode, a mono color printing mode in which the color image is printed using only one of the color inks having the residual amount greater than the predetermined standard residual amount, and a two color printing mode in which the color image is printed using two color inks of the color inks having the residual amounts greater than the predetermined standard residual amount;

selecting one of the normal printing mode, the mono color printing mode, and the two color printing mode; and

printing the color image according the selected printing mode.

3. The color printing method of claim 1, wherein the selection of the printing mode comprises:

displaying a printing mode selection window comprising the normal printing mode and the ink saving printing mode;

selecting one of the normal printing mode and the ink saving printing mode;

determining whether the selected printing mode is the ink saving printing mode;

if the selected printing mode is the ink saving printing mode, displaying a type selection window of the ink saving printing mode having a mono color printing mode in which an image is printed using only one of the color inks having the residual amount greater than the predetermined standard residual amount, and a two color printing mode in which the color image is printed using two color inks of the color inks having the residual amount greater than the predetermined standard residual amount;

selecting one of the mono color printing mode and the two color printing mode; and
printing an image according to printing modes selected.

4. The color printing method of claim 1, further comprising:
displaying the residual amount of each of the plurality of color inks.
5. The color printing method of claim 1, wherein in the selection of the printing mode, the residual amount of each of the color inks is displayed.
6. The color printing method of claim 1, wherein in the selection of the printing mode, a warning message is displayed when the residual amount of the at least one color ink is less than the predetermined standard residual amount.
7. The color printing method of claim 2, wherein the mono color printing mode is a printing mode in which the color image having color tones corresponding to all of the plurality of color inks is printed using one selected color ink.
8. The color printing method of claim 2, wherein the mono color printing mode is a printing mode in which the color image having a color tone corresponding to one selected color ink is printed.
9. The color printing method of claim 2, wherein the two color printing mode is a printing mode in which the color image having color tones corresponding to two selected color inks is printed.
10. The color printing method of claim 2, wherein the two color printing mode is a printing mode in which the color image having color tones corresponding to all of the color inks is printed using two selected color inks.

11. The color printing method of claim 3, wherein the mono color printing mode is a printing mode in which the color image having color tones corresponding to all of the color inks is printed using one selected color ink.

12. The color printing method of claim 3, wherein the mono color printing mode is a printing mode in which only the color image having a color tone corresponding to one selected color ink is printed.

13. The color printing method of claim 3, wherein the two color printing mode is a printing mode in which only the color image having color tones corresponding to two selected color inks are printed.

14. The color printing method of claim 3, wherein the two color printing mode is a printing mode in which the color image having color tones corresponding to all of the color inks is printed using two selected color inks.

15. A color printing method of a printer printing a color image on a recording paper using color inks contained in a color cartridge, the color printing method comprising:
detecting a residual amount of each of the color inks;
comparing the residual amount of each of the color inks with a predetermined standard residual amount;
determining whether the residual amount of at least one of the color inks is less than the predetermined standard residual amount;
printing the image using all of color inks when the residual amount of each of the color inks is greater than the predetermined standard residual amount; and
transmitting a warning message when the residual amount of at least one of the color inks is less than the predetermined standard residual amount.

16. The color printing method of claim 15, further comprising:
selecting a printing mode according to an importance of the color image to be printed and according to the residual amount of each of the color inks being greater than the predetermined standard residual amount; and

printing the color image corresponding to the printing mode selected, wherein the printing mode comprises one of

a normal printing mode where the color image is printed using the black ink and all of the color inks, where the residual amount of the black ink and all of the color inks is greater than the predetermined standard residual amount,

a mono color printing mode where the color image is printed using one color ink selected from the color inks, where the residual amount of the color ink selected is greater than the predetermined standard residual amount, and

a two color printing mode where the color image is printed using two color inks selected from the color inks, where the residual amount of the color inks selected is greater than the predetermined standard residual amount.

17. The color printing method of claim 15, wherein the residual amount of each of the color inks is displayed using at least one of a percent and a bar graph.

18. The color printing method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined standard residual amount is within a range of 10 – 20% of an initial total amount of each of the color inks.

19. A color printing method of a printer printing a color image on a recording paper using color inks contained in a color cartridge, the color printing method comprising:

detecting a residual amount of each of the color inks;

comparing the detected residual amount of each of the color inks with a predetermined standard residual amount;

displaying a printing mode selection window when the residual amount of at least one of the color inks is less than the predetermined standard residual amount; and

selecting one of a normal printing mode and an ink saving printing mode via the printing mode selection window, wherein the normal printing mode is selected when the residual amount of each of the color inks is greater than the predetermined standard residual amount and the ink saving printing mode is selected when the residual amount of at least one of the color inks is less than the predetermined standard residual amount;

printing the color image on the recording paper using all of the color inks when the normal printing mode is selected;

printing the color image on the recording paper using the color inks having residual amounts greater than the predetermined standard residual amount when the ink saving printing mode is selected.

20. The color printing method of claim 19, further comprising:
displaying a message warning that the residual amount of the at least one of the color inks is less than the predetermined standard residual amount; and
displaying the residual amount of each of the color inks.